



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for October 3, 2024

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This week WACD Executive Director Tom Salzer is in Kansas attending the Association of Conservation Executive Directors meeting.

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Five Things to Know

1. Northern Quest Casino Registration Information

WACD is excited to be hosting our 2024 Annual Conference and Business Meeting at the Northern Quest Casino this year from Monday, December 2nd to Wednesday, December 4th. We've secured a group rate at the state per diem amount of \$127 for conference attendees.

To secure the discounted rate, you will have to call the Northern Quest Casino's Reservation Department at 1-877-871-6772 and reference either the "Washington Association Conservation Conference" group rate or mention the Group Discount ID 29908. You can only utilize the discount over the phone, it will not be possible to make hotel reservations with the group discount online.

Keep an eye on our [2024 Annual Conference webpage](#) for all our conference information.

2. WDFW Solar and Wind Guidelines Workshop

WDFW is hosting an additional workshop before the end of the comment period (October 15th) to hear feedback and questions on the [draft solar and wind guidelines](#). This workshop is being held on **October 8th, 9am-12pm** Pacific, and is open to stakeholders and Tribes. If you plan to attend, please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJl5dOqhrD0jGp5f5gWHN3tMDXn6P6WUHXM>.

Please send us your questions in advance of this workshop, so the WDFW team has time to review internally and provide thoughtful responses during the meeting. Please send your questions to Michelle Huppert: Michelle.Huppert@dfw.wa.gov

3. Funding Opportunities Alert!

On September 25th WACD in partnership with the Washington Conservation Society published another edition of its Funding Opportunities Newsletter. That newsletter can be found [here](#).

Several additional funding resources came in after we published the newsletter and we wanted to be sure to pass those along:

- [Water quality grants and loans](#) - Washington State Department of Ecology – **Due October 15, 2024**
- [No Child Left Inside](#) - Recreation and Conservation Office (wa.gov) – **Due October 31, 2024**
- [Climate Resilient Riparian Grant Program](#) - Washington State Department of Ecology, SCC and Bonneville Environmental Foundation – **Due January 15, 2025**

There is also a new website, [FundHubWA](#), where you can search for state and federal climate and clean energy funding opportunities. The Washington State Legislature approved launch of FundHubWA in 2024. FundHubWA is sponsored and administered by the Washington State Department of Commerce and is supported with funding from Washington's Climate Commitment Act.

4. Upcoming Area Meetings

Area Meetings are right around the corner; please save the dates below.

- **October 10, 2024:** [SW Area Association meeting hosted by Thurston CD](#)
- **October 15, 2024:** [NE Area Association hosted by Spokane CD](#)
- **October 16, 2024:** [NC Area Association meeting hosted by Cascadia CD](#)
- **October 17, 2024:** [SE Area Association meeting hosted by Palouse CD](#)
- **October 24, 2024:** [NW Area Meeting hosted by Jefferson County CD](#)
- **October 30, 2024:** [SC Area Meeting hosted by Central Klickitat CD](#).

Details can be found in the HUB [here](#).

5. State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) Survey

The State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) revision is due to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on October 1, 2025. WDFW is conducting a survey to collect input to help organize the plan by ecoregions and watersheds to meet required plan elements that include: species of greatest conservation need and species-habitat associations, important habitats needing conservation in Washington state, and threats and conservation actions for species, habitats, and systems.

The survey results will be incorporated with WDFW staff input in winter 2024-2025 and available to review and discuss in another round of briefings in early 2025.

You can take the SWAP survey [here](#). The deadline for responses is **November 15, 2024**.

6. Bonus Item: Virtual Office Hours

WACD staff thought it would be fun to pick a theme for each office hour. The theme for our next meeting will be **Committee Updates**. If you want a sneak peak at what our committee's have been up to feel free to join us!

Our next office hour will occur on:

Wednesday, October 9th, Noon until 1 pm

Connection information is below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81129991422?pwd=duwNs4V5L3TFQa39SUQQUHMSnwVMHT.1>

Meeting ID: 811 2999 1422

Passcode: 549537

Phone Number: +1-253-205-0468

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2024

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 - **October 15:** [NE Area Association hosted by Spokane CD.](#)
 - **October 16:** [NC Area Association meeting hosted by Cascadia CD.](#)
 - **October 17:** [SE Area Association meeting hosted by Palouse CD.](#)
 - **October 21:** [WACD Board of Directors meeting](#)
 - **October 24:** [NW Area Meeting hosted by Jefferson County CD.](#)
 - **October 30:** [SC Area Meeting hosted by Central Klickitat CD.](#)
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Executive Corner

Gratitude & Grit

Welcome to October! Fall is my favorite time of year; the leaves are changing colors, and the mornings greet us with a cool crisp feeling that signals colder weather ahead. Now don't get me wrong, I am not a fan of winter, but I do love the changing seasons. This change also signals a busier time for WACD. Area Meetings, conference planning, and finalizing the work of our numerous workgroups, task forces, and committees will consume much of the month for us.

This is where the grit comes in. To be successful we have to lean into the work and each other. When I say that I don't just mean staff relying on one another and the WACD Board, although that is important. We are successful because we rely on the greater conservation community to get things done. No one has more grit than conservation district staff and supervisors. Their

time and passion on the numerous committees are invaluable. This year alone, WACD has facilitated seven workgroups, committees, and task forces, formed through resolutions to inform the work of the Association. That does not include standing committees like the WACD Finance Committee, Executive Committee, the Legislative, Bylaws, and District Policy Committee, and Natural Resource Committees that will meet in November to review resolutions. Grit means these groups have met regularly and put the time and effort in to produce meaningful products. This fall you will see 4 white papers, the product of their hard work and dedication.

This leads me to my next subject, gratitude. I am so grateful to be a part of this wonderful extended conservation community. I am grateful that, for the first time in a long time, all 45 CDs have paid dues. Dues are vital to support our lobbying efforts and to help facilitate the work I mentioned above. I am grateful for all the CD Supervisors, Managers, and Executive Directors who have selflessly given their time to serve on all the workgroups, committees, and task forces. I am grateful to our partners for sharing the passion for the collective work we do. We are the best version of ourselves when we work together toward shared goals, so thank you!

Now, on a more humorous note, the one thing Tom told me before he left was that I could not include a dad joke in this column. So instead, I will simply end by asking you this question: When does a joke become a dad joke? Answer: When it becomes apparent.

We miss you, Tom!

Yours in conservation,

Heather Wendt
Director of Development and Engagement

Latest Posts on the Hub

- [Community meetings announced for countywide update to wildfire mitigation plan](#)
- [WDFW, DNR announce \\$8.5 million in funding for Puget Sound restoration and protection efforts](#)
- [Free fuels reduction program helps residents boost wildfire resilience](#)
- [Cascadia CD Finance and Operations Director](#)
- [Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance for FSA and NRCS Programs Webinar](#)
- [Public invited to rain garden tour and information session Oct. 5](#)

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1219 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501
(564) 669-7540

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